



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Recognition of Council Member Johnson who received a Citation of Merit from the National Recreation and Park Association

MEETING DATE: May 20, 1998

PREPARED BY: City Clerk

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That Mayor Sieglock recognize Council Member Bob Johnson who recently received a Citation of Merit from the National Recreation and Park Association.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On March 13, 1998, Council Member Bob Johnson accepted a Citation of Merit from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) which honors significant contributions from either an organization or individual whose involvement has had a positive impact on parks and recreation at the state, regional or national level. Mr. Johnson received the award at the NRPA's annual reception in Long Beach.

FUNDING: None required.


Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

APPROVED: _____
H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager

Monday, February 23, 1998 — Lodi News-Sentinel — 3

Parks' Bob Johnson gets national award

By Craig Cassidy
News-Sentinel staff writer

Longtime Lodi Parks and Recreation Commissioner Bob Johnson has been named a winner of this year's Citation of Merit by the National Recreational and Park Association, it was recently announced.

Johnson will receive his award, in the individual citizens category, March 13 at the NRPA's Southwest Regional Council's annual reception in Long Beach.

The award "honors significant contributions from either an organization or individual whose involvement has had a positive impact on parks and recreation at the state, regional or national level," an awards program stated.

Lodi Parks Director Ron Williamson, who nominated Johnson, said, "His absolute and total commitment to this community and his volunteerism to the parks and recreation movement in Lodi have been a vital part of all the good we have been able to do in parks and related services."

Johnson, a 10-year member of

Lodi's parks commission and a four-time chairman, said he was caught off guard by the announcement.

"I haven't even seen the award myself," said Johnson, a Lodi real estate appraiser whose other community activities include serving on the board of directors for the Boosters of Boys/Girls Sports Organizations and as a coach for youth football, soccer and baseball teams.



JOHNSON

"I haven't seen the submission that was made, but I'm pleasantly surprised," he said.

"I've been recognized in the past on a district level or on a local level but this is the first time on the statewide level which is something I am very, very pleased with."

Williamson said Johnson will also be honored for "community excellence" on March 26 in Manteca at an annual dinner of the California Parks and Recreation Society, District 5.

Attn: Jennifer Perrin

NRPA Pacific Southwest Awards and Citations Program

Citation of Merit – Individual

Robert Johnson
Biographical Statement

Robert Johnson is an outstanding, dedicated, and committed citizen of Lodi. He has served the community when and where needed over the past 18 years.

Community Recreation Service**• LODI PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Johnson was appointed to the Lodi Parks and Recreation Commission in 1988, was re-appointed for two additional terms and still serves to this day. The commission is an advisory group to the city council whose members are appointed by the mayor. The commission is charged with recommending the general nature of recreation programs, advising and assisting with the department's annual budget, recommending capital improvement project, and recommending fees and charges. He chaired the commission in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1997. He has been instrumental in guiding and supporting the parks and recreation department over the past 10 years. His accomplishments as a commissioner include:

- ✓ Setting of fees and charges to capture 40% of program related costs, surpassing council mandated goal of 30%.
- ✓ Chaired the Mokelumne River Access and Use Study Committee in 1991-92 to determine access needs and right-of-ways along the north boundary of the community and help establish a community position on river access and an appreciation of sensitive environmental areas along the river.
- ✓ Represented the department at a series of Town Hall meetings in 1992 and lead the citizen push to save valued programs from being cut during a time of city-wide budget constraints.
- ✓ Chaired the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Committee in 1992-93 to assist in developing a master plan that identifies the recreation needs in the Lodi area. This 15-year guide was completed and adopted in 1994.
- ✓ Under his leadership, the Lodi Parks and Recreation Commission received the 1993 *Commission of the Year* honor by both the National Parks and Recreation Association and California Parks and Recreation Society.
- ✓ Served on the Lodi Indoor Sports and Activity Center Committee in 1997, which assisted in the development of a feasibility study, to address indoor space needs for the community.

• BOOSTERS OF BOYS/GIRLS SPORTS ORGANIZATION

Mr. Johnson became a member of the Boosters of Boys/Girls Sports Organization (a unique organization comprised of volunteers who run many of the youth sports programs and raise \$300,000 + annually) in 1981. He served on the BOBS Board of Directors from 1983 to 1987 and served as president in 1985 and secretary in 1987.

He also volunteered as a youth sports coach in football, soccer and baseball from 1980 to 1993.

- **COUNTY YMCA**

Served on the County YMCA Board of Directors from 1980 to 1985 and served in the office of president in 1983 and 1984.

Other Community Service

- **LODI DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Mr. Johnson has been a member of the local Chamber of Commerce for 18 years. He served on the Board of Directors from 1991 to 1995 and was president in 1994 and has served on the following Lodi Chamber of Commerce committees:

- ✓ Joint Chamber/City Economic Development Committee from 1992 to present.
- ✓ Leadership Lodi – Economic Development Section
- ✓ Building Committee for Relocation

- **LODI TOKAY ROTARY CLUB**

Mr. Johnson has been a Rotarian for 18 years, serving on the Board of Directors from 1987 to 1991 and as president in 1991.

- **WOODBIDGE DAM**

Mr. Johnson has been instrumental in supporting and representing Lodi in fighting to save the existing Woodbridge Dam on the Mokelumne River (a river adjacent to the city's northern limit). In 1994 the United States Fish and Wild Life Services recommended the dam's removal. Mr. Johnson headed a city and a county citizen "Save the Dam" campaign which was successful. This dam is needed to support irrigation needs for the many agriculture acres in and around Lodi and to support water recreation activities at Lodi Lake Park and along the Mokelumne River waterway.

Currently, Mr. Johnson is actively supporting a grant that would replace the dam thereby enhancing water resources in Lodi and improving salmon spawning. This grant will also provide for improvements at Lodi Lake Park and will keep water in the lake year round whereas now it is drained during the winter months.

Awards and Recognition

- 1994 Citizen of the Year by the Lodi City Council for his commitment to quality of life issues in Lodi.

ROBERT JOHNSON

CITATION OF MERIT – INDIVIDUAL

COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE

- LODI PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION *1988 – PRESENT*
- LODI INDOOR SPORTS AND ACTIVITY CENTER COMMITTEE *1997*
- PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE *1992-93*
- MOKELUMNE RIVER ACCESS AND USE STUDY COMMITTEE *1991-92*
- SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY YMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS *1980-1985*
- BOOSTERS OF BOYS/GIRLS SPORTS ORGANIZATION *1981 – 1987*
- VOLUNTEER YOUTH FOOTBALL, SOCCER, BASEBALL COACH *1980 – 1993*

OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE

- LODI DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS *1991 – 1995*
- LODI TOKAY ROTARY CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS *1987 – 1991*
- WOODBRIDGE DAM SUPPORTER *ONGOING*

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- CITY OF LODI *1994 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR*
- NRPA AND CPRS *1993 COMMISSION OF THE YEAR*